



2026

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Lincoln Trail

Area Development District
~ established 1968 ~

Locally Based | Regionally Focused

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TOGETHER , we present a measured, strategic approach to projects across the Lincoln Trail Area Development District.

Economic Outlook

Our region continues experiencing unprecedented growth, and the Lincoln Trail Area Development District (LTADD) is proud to be working closely with our local municipalities to take full advantage of the opportunity before us while continuing to serve the needs of our region.

The region's population has increased by 37,568 since 2000 across our eight-county region. LTADD is seeing significant growth in five key cities: Elizabethtown and Radcliff (Hardin County), Bardstown (Nelson County), Brandenburg (Meade County), and Hodgenville (LaRue County). Our region is poised to take advantage of every opportunity presented.

Recent business and industry investments range from Nucor Steel in Meade County and Morris Packaging in Marion County to the continued growth of the bourbon industry and expansions in the healthcare and manufacturing sectors. Additionally, the BlueOval SK transition in Hardin County presents an alternative opportunity with Ford Motor Company in the coming months.

This growth, on top of our historically low unemployment rates, means opportunity is abundant, and our region is taking full advantage. But with all growth come growing pains that must be addressed. This expansion increases infrastructure and public safety demands, as under-resourced local governments often lack the financial capacity to support necessary investments.

We are grateful for our federal and state elected leaders, who are always looking for ways to help us fill the gaps. We applaud and thank them for their continued selfless efforts. Together, with our local elected officials, we will continue to prioritize our region for sustained growth.



Daniel London
LTADD Executive Director

Our **REGION**
is well positioned for
MAJOR GROWTH;
however,
we must have the
SUPPORT &
RESOURCES
necessary to be successful
TOGETHER.

-Daniel London
LTADD Executive Director



THE REGION AT A GLANCE





AT A GLANCE

ABOUT LTADD

- Serving the Heartland of Kentucky (Breckinridge, Grayson, Hardin, LaRue, Marion, Meade, Nelson and Washington Counties)
- LTADD Services:
 - Aging & Social Services
 - Workforce
 - Revolving Loan Fund (for businesses and local government)
 - Community & Economic Development
 - Local Government Support
 - Regional Infrastructure Planning
 - Transportation Planning
 - Hazard Mitigation/Disaster Recovery
 - Engineering
 - Communications

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Fort Knox** (Hardin & Meade Counties)
 - Economic Influence: \$5.6 billion
 - Payroll: \$1.3 billion
 - Employment: 16,500 full-time jobs
 - 21,000 jobs when including full-time equivalents of transient service members and students (as a single entity and location, Fort Knox is second only to UPS as Kentucky's largest employer).
 - Off-post Populations (within 40-mile radius of Fort Knox): 79,445
 - 48,146 retirees and retiree dependents
 - Infrastructure Demands: \$13.99 billion

- **Fort Knox** (continued)
 - **Distinctions:**
 - **Digital Air-Ground Integration Range (DAGIR)** - a high-tech range where ground forces can train simultaneously with military aircraft; only DAGIR east of the Mississippi River
 - **Fort Knox Energy Program** - a comprehensive initiative focused on achieving energy independence; a \$6 million annual savings to taxpayers
- **Ford** (Hardin County)
 - Additional \$2 billion investment to retool Kentucky 1 site
 - Kentucky 1 will be converted to manufacture 5 MWh+ advanced battery energy storage systems
 - 2,100 new jobs in 2027
- **Nucor Steel** (Meade County)
 - \$1.7 billion project investment
 - Initial announcement of 400 jobs; increased to 700 jobs upon opening December 2022
- **Bourbon Industry** (Nelson, Taylor, Washington, and Hardin counties)
 - Generated \$9 billion economic and tourism for the Commonwealth (FY2025)
 - Created 23,100 jobs in Kentucky

REGIONAL HEALTHCARE INVESTMENTS:

- **Baptist Health Hardin** (Hardin County)
 - Medical Pavilion (Elizabethtown) - Opened November 2024
 - Outpatient Facility (Cecilia) - Anticipated Fall 2025
 - ER and Urgent Care Facility (Radcliff) - Anticipated Fall 2026
- **Spring View Hospital** (Washington and Marion counties)
 - Springfield Clinic (Springfield) - Opened August 2024
 - Spring View Women's and Children's Clinic (Springfield) - Opened August 2024

TRANSPORTATION



TRANSPORTATION



TRANSPORTATION



Total Legislative Request:
\$199,250,000
for eight recommended projects

GOAL:

Safe and efficient means of multi-modal movement of people, goods and services in and out of the region.

OBJECTIVES:

- Assist in the implementation of a mass transit system in the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).
- Improve and/or build new highways to facilitate movement of people, goods and products.

Recent Innovative Impact: Public Transit Study

About: In late 2024, LTADD released a public transit study for Radcliff/ Elizabethtown Metropolitan Planning Organization (REMPO). Based on the research and interviews, three next steps were identified including the expansion of the Transportation Authority of Central Kentucky van pool, share information and generate excitement about a new transit program, and roll out new bus service with tracking for total ride shares.

Funding: Public-private partnership with study funded by local business and industry.



KY-86 Improvements (Breckinridge County)

Enhance regional highway connectivity between Breckinridge and Hardin counties to boost economic development and improve commuting efficiency.

PRICING: \$9,320,000



US 62 Widening (Grayson County)

Enhance safety while improving regional highway connectivity between Grayson and Hardin counties.

PRICING: \$7,560,000



Glendale Bypass (Hardin County)

Facilitate growth in and around Glendale related to economic and population growth.

PRICING: \$9,530,000



Safety Improvements on KY 210 (LaRue County)

Improve safety and reduce commute times for travelers in LaRue County.

PRICING: \$21,000,000



Extension of KY2154 Bypass (Marion County)

Reduce congestion and improve safety by diverting heavy highway traffic from downtown Lebanon to extended bypass to increase accessibility.

PRICING: \$28,700,000



Brandenburg Bypass (Meade County)

Alleviate congestion and enhance safety by redirecting heavy traffic from downtown Brandenburg to extended bypass to improve connectivity.

PRICING: \$21,980,000



Widening of KY 245 (Nelson County)

Relieve travel congestion throughout the county and unlock the area for significant economic development.

PRICING: \$91,660,000

Redesign of KY 152 (Washington County)

Enhance safety while improving regional highway connectivity between Washington County and surrounding economic centers.

PRICING: \$9,500,000



REGIONAL RESOURCES & UTILITIES



RESOURCES/
UTILITIES

REGIONAL RESOURCES & UTILITIES



Total Legislative Request:
\$235,521,369
for nine recommended projects

GOAL:

Grow capacity to ensure all citizens, stakeholders and businesses have access to clean and safe drinking water and sewer, gas and electricity to facilitate job creation and small business opportunities.

OBJECTIVES:

- Expand current water treatment plant capacities and construct additional water treatment plants to increase local and regional capacities.
- Expand water line networks.
- Expand natural gas transmission to facilitate economic growth.
- Create multi-utility partnerships to treat water and wastewater.
- Expand the regional airport's passenger and cargo infrastructure.



Hardinsburg Water Treatment Plant Expansion-Final Phase (Breckinridge County)

Expand water plant capacity for additional water lines to support quality of life and growth. Plant is currently at capacity.

PRICING: \$11,125,000

East-West Interconnect Phase III - Contract 2 (Grayson County)

Upgrade regional connectivity and capacity to support the Edmonson County Water District in reaching underserved Grayson County residents.

PRICING: \$9,498,000



Elizabethtown WWTP Upgrade & Expansion (Hardin County)

Upgrade capacity to support economic growth and population expansion in Elizabethtown, the state's fastest-growing large city.

PRICING: \$144,330,000

City of Hodgenville WWTP Modification Phase II (LaRue County)

Upgrade system components that have exceeded their life cycle to ensure a consistent flow of high-quality water.

PRICING: \$2,876,585



Danville Highway Water Storage Tank (Marion County)

Replace aged storage tank to improve overall water quality.

PRICING: \$3,100,000

New Well - Brandenburg Riverfront Park (Meade County)

Replace the well to prevent collapse caused by the unstable Ohio River Bank.

PRICING: \$866,245



12" New Haven Road Water Main Replacement (Nelson County)

Replace the existing water line to strengthen reliability, limit water loss, and reduce the risks of major outages.

PRICING: \$6,458,940



Water Main Assessment, Replacement, Planning and Design: WTP and Priority Area 4 (Washington County)

Assess and replacement aging infrastructure to improve water quality.

PRICING: \$7,266,599



LG&E Gas Line Expansion (Hart & LaRue County)

Extend reliable gas access to promote economic development and support population growth in the region.

PRICING: \$50,000,000



CHILDCARE



CHILDCARE



CHILDCARE



Total Legislative Request:
\$2,076,800

GOAL:

Unlock the potential of work-willing parents by developing a funding model to make childcare more affordable, highlighting a potential return-on-investment for businesses and industries adopting and implementing. LTADD completed a regional study on childcare in late 2024.

Produce 50 additional child care programs within LTADD's region and support expansion of 100 existing childcare programs over two (2) years.

OBJECTIVES:

- Public-private partnerships to create capacity through fixed facilities in its urban areas,
- Regulatory and policy reform coordination through the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, and
- Build in-home childcare capacity in rural areas through Wonderschool, a leading provider of comprehensive childcare solutions.



Appropriations line item request by Rep. Samara Heavrin

This bill includes the one-time, two-year funding for a partnership with Wonderschool to increase childcare capacity in rural communities of like make-up.

PRICING: \$2,076,800

FORT KNOX





FORT KNOX



WELCOME TO FORT KNOX

GOAL:

Protect Fort Knox's value to National Defense and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and build a stronger workforce by retaining veteran talent and maximizing military spouse employment opportunities.

OBJECTIVES:

- Study and implement proven approaches that enable expedient construction of and quality housing.
- Partner with Fort Knox to facilitate land uses around the installation that are compatible with the military's missions and training activities.
- Support Fort Knox Compatible Use Plan (CUP) implementation.
- Provide tax credits to incentivize transitioning service members and their families to consider Kentucky as its home.
- Expand professional licensing opportunities and incentives that reduce military spouse underemployment and unemployment.



Priority One - Refunding of the KY Purchase of Agricultural Easements (PACE) Program

Provisions of funding to purchase development rights on private agricultural land to permanently protect it from non-farm development, keeping more land available for agricultural and compatible land use of parcels surrounding the military installation.

Priority Two - Amendment to KRS 100.212(3)

Due to potential encroachment, noise, vibration, and other land use capability concerns, notification of a proposed zoning change to Garrison Command within a 3-mile buffer of Fort Knox for comments in order to sustain military missions.



Priority Three - Available and Affordable Housing for Service Members

Due to the current housing shortage, service members are in need of housing that is both affordable and available to them based on the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rate, through provisions of tax credits for developers and contractors.

Priority Four - Elimination of Tax on Military Retiree Pension

To retain military retirees in the Commonwealth, all Department of Defense-paid military retirement income tax must be eliminated.





Priority Five - State-Level Military/Community Compatibility Guidebook

Creation of a state level guidebook dealing with economic development, preservation, and compatible use concepts as they relate to military installations to assist local officials with implementing strategies to protect and preserve military installations.

Priority Six - State Licensing Compacts for Military Spouses

Passage of (RS24) HB34: Interstate occupational licensing compacts allow universal recognition of occupational licenses and government certifications to ensure employment for military spouses who relocate to Kentucky.



CENTRAL KENTUCKY COMMUNITY ACTION



COMMUNITY
ACTION



CENTRAL KENTUCKY COMMUNITY ACTION



TOTAL REGIONAL IMPACT
\$22,428,546

Goal:

Central Kentucky Community Action Council (CKCAC) is a private, non-profit agency that serves nearly 275,000 residents in an eight-county region. CKCAC provides social services including Head Start, community services, employment support, family advocacy, home energy supplementation, and nutritional resources. In partnership with LTADD, they provide transportation and aging services for the region.

Objectives:

- Empower individuals and families in poverty to achieve self-sufficiency and economic mobility.
- Partner with communities, businesses, industry and nonprofits to provide essential services in education, employment, aging and family support, nutrition, health, housing and transportation.



Expand and strengthen access to affordable housing in our communities.

Primary focus on single-family homeownership, a key to breaking cycles of generational poverty and transitioning residents to middle class.

Preserve Medicaid's non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) services.

Studies show that for every \$1 spent on NEMT, Medicaid saves \$11 in avoided emergency room visits and hospital admissions.



Adequately fund Department of Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) for Senior Congregate Meals and Senior Transportation services.

The nutrition, socialization, and mobility provided through this program is essential to the care and wellbeing of Kentucky seniors.

FIRST RESPONDERS & JAIL SUBSIDIES



FIRST RESPONDERS/
JAIL SUBSIDIES



FIRST RESPONDERS & JAIL SUBSIDIES



TOTAL REGIONAL IMPACT
\$29,882,579

WHY:

EMS, jail, and sheriff's office budgets continue to outstrip county government's ability to fund other priorities and needs within the community. Since the pandemic, costs due to inflation resulting in large transfers of funds from each county's general funds. This trend cannot be sustained without legislative assistance.

FY25 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BY COUNTY

COUNTY	EMS	JAIL	SHERIFF
Breckinridge County	\$150,000	\$600,000	\$200,000
LaRue County	\$453,044	\$951,000	\$0
Hardin County	\$2,600,000	\$5,800,000	\$3,500,000
Marion County	\$1,155,000	\$1,715,000	\$717,000
Meade County	\$1,656,750	\$1,150,000	\$0
Nelson County	\$1,088,000	\$2,236,000	\$3,235,000
Washington County	\$1,477,320	\$737,665	\$460,800

IMPACT



IMPACT | DISTRICTWIDE

INFRASTRUCTURE

ROI

101
Projects
=
\$372.7
million



Investment
Breakdown

\$372.7 million

OR

\$1,328.94
per citizen

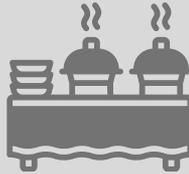
vs. \$.386
per citizen
invested by
local
government

Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025



88,837

Home Delivered Meals



108,053

Congregate
Meals Served

173



Seniors Receiving
Legal Assistance

20,384



Transportation
Trips



213

Clients receiving
in-home services



67

Grandparents/Caregivers
Supported

2,124

long-term care
residents served



(Ombudsman Program)

439

Medicaid
Waiver
Participants



1,076

individuals received assistance from
the State Health Insurance Program



Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- 19,266 clients receiving employment services
- 391 hiring events (1,098 employers)
- 45 high school career fairs
- 2,587 students reached
- 55 WIOA enrollments
- 18 Incumbent Worker Training participants
- 370 laid-off workers eligible for Rapid Response assistance



11

Active Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Loans
for Businesses & Local Governments

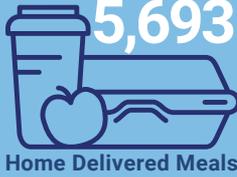
IMPACT | BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ROI

14
Projects
=
\$35.5
million



- 8 Wastewater
- 5 Water
- 1 LWCF



INVESTMENT RETURNS

\$35.5 million OR
\$1,736.19 per citizen vs.
\$.386 per citizen invested by
local government



IMPACT | GRAYSON COUNTY

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ROI

15
Projects
=
\$15.5
million



- 6 Wastewater
- 6 Water
- 2 CCBIP
- 1 Pavement Condition Rating

11,703

Home Delivered Meals

5,421

Congregate Meals Served

20

Seniors Receiving Legal Assistance

2,235

Transportation Trips

25

Clients receiving in-home services

5

Grandparents/Caregivers Supported

189

long-term care residents served
Ombudsman Program

36

Medicaid Waiver Participants

INVESTMENT RETURNS

\$15.5 million OR
\$587.15 per citizen vs.
\$.386 per citizen invested by
local government



IMPACT | HARDIN COUNTY

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ROI

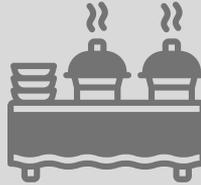
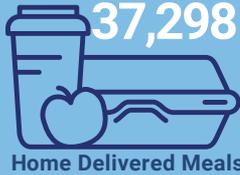
17
Projects

=

**\$184.9
million**



- 7 Wastewater
- 7 Water
- 1 FEMA
- 1 CDBG
- 1 PCR



15,387
Congregate
Meals Served



6,777
Transportation
Trips



28
Clients receiving
in-home services



14
Grandparents/Caregivers
Supported

956
long-term care
residents served



Ombudsman Program



172
Medicaid
Waiver
Participants

INVESTMENT RETURNS

\$184.9 million OR
\$1,670.32 per citizen vs.
\$.386 per citizen invested by
local government



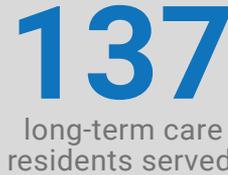
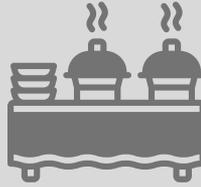
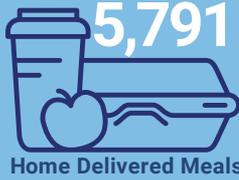
IMPACT | LARUE COUNTY

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ROI

13
Projects
=
\$55.8
million



- 7 Water
- 1 Wastewater
- 1 FEMA
- 2 PCR
- 1 CCBIP
- 1 RLF-Local Government



Ombudsman Program



INVESTMENT RETURNS

\$55.8 million OR
\$3,750.74 per citizen vs.
\$.386 per citizen invested by
local government



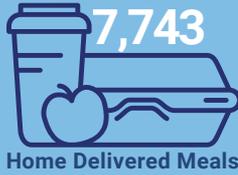
IMPACT | MARION COUNTY

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ROI

12
Projects
=
\$14
million



- 8 Water
- 2 Wastewater
- 1 CDBG
- 1 LWCF



21,952
Congregate
Meals Served



3,014
Transportation
Trips



25
Clients receiving
in-home services



8
Grandparents/Caregivers
Supported

178
long-term care
residents served



Ombudsman Program



45
Medicaid
Waiver
Participants

INVESTMENT RETURNS

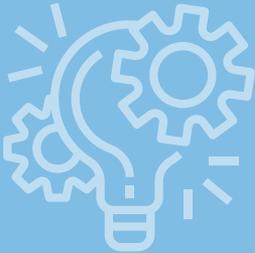
\$14 million OR
\$714.79 per citizen vs.
\$.386 per citizen invested by
local government



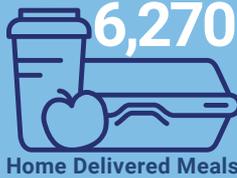
IMPACT | MEADE COUNTY

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ROI

11
Projects
=
\$13
million



- 2 Wastewater
- 9 Water



13,399
Congregate
Meals Served



241
Transportation
Trips



23
Clients receiving
in-home services



7
Grandparents/Caregivers
Supported

90
long-term care
residents served



Ombudsman Program



37
Medicaid
Waiver
Participants

INVESTMENT RETURNS

\$13 million OR
\$433.29 per citizen vs.
\$.386 per citizen invested by
local government



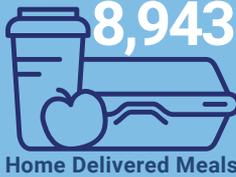
IMPACT | NELSON COUNTY

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ROI

8
Projects
=
\$33.8
million



- 4 Wastewater
- 3 Water
- 1 LWCF



INVESTMENT RETURNS

\$33.8 million OR
\$723.69 per citizen vs.
\$.386 per citizen invested by
local government



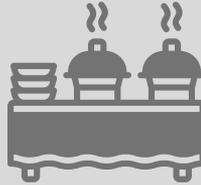
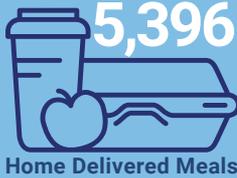
IMPACT | WASHINGTON COUNTY

LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE ROI

12
Projects
=
\$20.2
million



- 7 Water
- 2 Wastewater
- 2 CCBIP
- 1 RLF - Local Government



11,022
Congregate
Meals Served



111
Transportation
Trips



23
Clients receiving
in-home services



9
Grandparents/Caregivers
Supported

129
long-term care
residents served



Ombudsman Program



19
Medicaid
Waiver
Participants

INVESTMENT RETURNS

\$20.2 million OR
\$1,679.50 per citizen vs.
\$.386 per citizen invested by
local government



LTADD INNOVATIVE SERVICES





INNOVATIVE SERVICES

Goal:

Lincoln Trail Area Development District (LTADD) is committed to providing solutions to municipalities, counties, nonprofits, businesses and industries when they need it most. This includes the following innovative services and projects.

Services:

- **Community Aging & Social Engagement (CASE)** - LTADD's CASE team is committed to providing essential services to senior Kentuckians by providing access to socialization opportunities and congregate meals at senior centers, in-homes social services to support independent living, and to ensure that clients have access to the services they need.

Recent Innovative Impact: Regional SHIP Counseling

About: LTADD counseled 1,076 Kentuckians in the Lincoln Trail region as part of the Kentucky State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). The program provides information, counseling, and assistance to seniors and disabled individuals, their families and caregivers. This service is provided at no charge educates the general public and Medicare beneficiaries so they are better able to make informed decisions about their health care.

Funding: Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Services *(continued)*:

- **Finance, Administration & Compliance Team (FACT)** - LTADD FACT provides essential regulation, tracking, and administrative services for all divisions and grants. LTADD is exploring opportunities to provide outsourced accounting services to clients needing financial support services.
- **Community Asset Planning & Engineering (CAPE)** - LTADD CAPE is comprised of infrastructure planning and engineering services. It is the first engineering provider among the Commonwealth's area development districts. The engineering team provides project management, inspections, mapping and drone services, and bridge application services. This fills a gap for municipalities across the state that do not have internal access to engineers or that need non-traditional engineering services. The infrastructure arm provides transportation, water and wastewater, and hazard mitigation planning for the region.



Recent Innovative Impact: Medlock Loop Road (Marion County)

About: LTADD Engineering completed a bridge improvement project in Marion County at Medlock Creek Road, utilizing City-County Bridge Improvement Program (CCBIP) funds from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) Department of Rural and Municipal Aid. LTADD Engineering supported Marion County Government through the entire reconstruction process: from assessment, design, application, review, and execution. The original bridge consisted of a narrow roadway width, structural wear, and even a reduced load rating posted by KYTC. Increasing traffic demands prompted county officials to pursue a full replacement.

Funding: City-County Bridge Improvement Program (CCBIP)



Recent Innovative Impact: Pavement Condition Rating

About: The pavement condition rating system uses ESRI's Field Maps and ArcGIS tools, as well as field data collected by LTADD's engineer and GIS specialist, to identify pavement issues such as cracking, rutting, and potholes, and assign standardized condition scores. This process promotes transparency, supports cost analysis, and helps counties prioritize repairs and plan long-term infrastructure investments. GIS-based dashboards allow officials to visualize progress, identify high-need areas, and make informed decisions about resurfacing and bridge projects.

Funding: City-County Bridge Improvement Program (CCBIP) Grant

Services *(continued)*:

- **Community & Regional Economic Development (CRED)** - LTADD CRED is focused on regional economic development and strategic planning for local governments and businesses. Local government services include comprehensive strategic planning and coordination, technical assistance, grant writing, and other support services. Workforce development focuses on delivering integrated and coordinated services to eligible job seekers and employers in the region. Local workforce partners are challenged to strengthen career pathways, work-based learning, sector strategies, and business engagement. LTADD also provides gap financing through its Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program for small businesses and local governments.
- **Lincoln Trail Communications (LINC)** - LTADD's newest service supports effective communications and messaging for regional municipalities, businesses, industry, nonprofits and more. The cost-effective option ensures stakeholders have the information they need when they need it most.



Lincoln Trail

Area Development District
~ established 1968 ~

Lincoln Trail Area Development District

750 S. Provident Way, Elizabethtown, KY 42701

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